24 June 1965

MEMO FOR THE RECORD

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SUBJECT: OCI Handbooks

12/8/80

1. At the IAD meeting last Friday ████████████ mentioned a series 25X1A9a of new OCI Handbooks now projected. Mr. Cline jokingly said he thought we were out to abolish handbooks rather than design new ones. I said, when my turn came, that I would be interested in seeing them. After the 25X1A9a meeting ████████ said he understood ████████████ had been talking with us 25X1A9a about them, but he would be glad to give me a briefing on them if I wished.

25X1A9a 2. ████████████ arrived yesterday with proofs on Chad and the Malagasy Republic. The content of the 4 to 5 pages showed A. General type coverage of political, economic, foreign affairs, ethnology, and subversive. A Chronology apparently identical with that in the General Survey, Factbook-type of information, and a list of available NIS on the particular area follow this. The plan is to provide ring binders similar to those used in the biographic handbooks and insert each country coverage when issued so as to make up an African Handbook.

25X1A9a 3. The idea seems to have grown out of the Latin America Handbook generated by ████████████████████ seemed vague on scheduling and distribution of the document. He said production in OCI was to be low priority.

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4. This prompted me to comment this morning by telephone to Paul Borel that such obvious duplication should be coordinated with people in OBI before the project goes farther. It could compete with the NIS for the printers' and producers' time. The data unilaterally produced may conflict with NIS material, which is coordinated with other agencies. The scheduling at least could take into account the NIS schedule. CIA is in a poor position to investigate parallel research being done by non-USIB agencies (see USIB-A-359 Agenda) when we put into the hands of the users evidence that we have not coordinated our own efforts. I mentioned that the problem was on Mr. Borel's desk. He said he recognized this and intended to talk to 25X1A9a ████████████ about it. I requested that the project be thoroughly discussed, so that OBI would know as much about what OCI is doing as what OCI knows about the OBI/NIS Program. The initiative for such discussion should not be in OBI, but the other way around. Any DD/I office planning new projects should try to coordinate these with existing DD/I programs.

25X1A9a

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DAD/BI

Distribution:
Orig - Handbook file
1 - OCI
1 - chrono (DAD)
1 - chrono (OAD/BI)